

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of updating computer software and/or data in any one of a plurality of recipient computers, a recipient computer being a computer that is to be updated, the update being provided to the recipient computer by a data owner computer, the method comprising the steps of:

said recipient computer sending an update request as an e-mail message to ~~an~~the data owner computer, the update request specifying files to be updated;

said data owner computer automatically analyzing the update request, determining the files to be updated, and preparing a corresponding software and/or data update in response to receiving the update request e-mail;

said owner computer automatically sending said software and/or data update to said recipient computer, wherein the software and/or data update comprises an email message having one or more files to be updated included as attachment files in the e-mail message; and

said recipient computer automatically responding to said software and/or data update by opening the attachment files and updating said software and/or data.

Claim 2 (currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the update request is compiled at the recipient computer by reference to a data directory, and the software and/or data update is compiled at the data owner computer by reference to the same data directory, only the files identified in the update request being updated in the software and/or data update.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (previously amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the software and/or data update is protected by a password.

Claim 5 (original). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the e-mail update request is transmitted via the internet.

Claim 6 (original). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the recipient computer is protected by a fire-wall through which it communicates in sending said e-mail update request.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the computer software and/or data to be updated consists of one of a virus signature, a software application, or data to be backed-up by the data owner computer.